

Searches for Contraband

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
Division of Juvenile Correctional Services: Training School

Policy: 1200.0821

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Version: 1

Searches for contraband are necessary when there is a strong suspicion that a resident possesses unauthorized or illegal material which may pose a threat to institutional safety of security at the RI Training School. An updated list of examples of items considered contraband is contained in the Resident Handbook and distributed at admission to each resident.

Searches for contraband are conducted in a manner that avoids unnecessary embarrassment of any resident. These searches do not utilize undue force and should never result in the loss, damage or abuse of property. Searches are conducted in a manner that preserves evidence. All areas within units and facilities are thoroughly searched.

Related Procedure

[Searches for Contraband](#)

Related Policy

[Resident Room Inspections](#)

[Use of Physical Force or Corporal Punishment](#)

[Resident Handbook](#)

[Unusual Incident Report](#)

[Behavior Report](#)

[Major Discipline Review](#)

[Protecting and Preserving Evidence](#)

Searches for Contraband

Procedure from Policy 1200.0821: Searches for Contraband

- A. Routine searches are conducted in conformance with DCYF Policy 1200.1003, Resident Room Inspections and DCYF Policy 1200.0835, Protecting and Preserving Evidence.
- B. Any use of force in the conduct of a room search conforms to DCYF Policy 1200.1207: Use of Physical Force or Corporal Punishment.
- C. An updated list of items considered contraband is provided to each resident in the Resident Handbook in conformance with DCYF Policy 1200.1301: Resident Handbook.
- D. If there is reason to suspect that a resident(s) possesses contraband, the Superintendent or designee authorizes a search. All searches are documented in the Unit Log Book by staff assigned to complete log entries.
 - 1. When possible, residents are present during searches for contraband.
 - 2. Any material discovered in a resident's room during the resident's absence cannot be used as evidence in disciplinary actions.
 - 3. Additional staff are also present to witness the search whenever possible.
 - 4. Staff follow the protocols outlined in department training in conducting searches.
- E. During a unit or facility wide search, all areas are inspected whether or not residents routinely have access to them. Staff follow the protocols outlined in department training in conducting searches.
- F. Staff complete an Unusual Incident Report if contraband or other unauthorized material is discovered in conformance with DCYF Policy 1200.0823, Unusual Incident Report.
- G. Any discipline of a resident for possession of contraband is managed in conformance with DCYF Policy 1200.1305 Behavior Report and DCYF Policy 1200.1306, Major Discipline Review. The Superintendent determines whether referral to the State Police is warranted if contraband is found.
- H. Contraband is turned over to the office of the Superintendent for safekeeping and disposal.
 - 1. Except for illegal drugs, the Superintendent may dispose of small quantities of contraband. The Superintendent keeps a record of all disposed contraband.
 - 2. For sizable amounts of contraband and all drugs, the Superintendent contacts the appropriate State department for disposal.
- I. Paragraphs A - H are consistent with American Correctional Association Standards 3-JDF-3A-19; 3-JTS-3A-19; 3-JDF-3C-09 and 3-JTS-3C-09.